

DOCKET NO.: FCI-2550
Application No.: 09/691,811
Office Action Dated: August 13, 2003

PATENT

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Entry of this response and reconsideration and allowance of the above-identified patent application is respectfully requested. Claims 15-19 and 42-46 were rejected in the office action. Claims 42-46 have been canceled. Independent claim 15 has been amended. Upon entry of this response, claims 15-19 will be pending in the present application. No new matter has been added and no additional prior art searches are required by the present amendments.

Claims 15-19 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 (a) as being unpatentable over all of the following references: (1) U.S. Patent No. 5,490,040 to Gaudenzi *et al.* ("Gaudenzi"); (2) U.S. Patent No. 5,772,451 to Dozier II *et al.* ("Dozier"); (3) U.S. Patent No. 4,878,611 to LoVasco *et al.* ("LoVasco"); and (4) Japan Patent No. 2-28990 to Nakane ("Nakane").

Applicants would like to thank Examiner Abrams for discussing the present application on October 14, 2003. Applicant's discussion with Examiner Abrams was helpful in facilitating and progressing the prosecution of the present application. Applicants have amended the claims in accordance with the suggested amendments proposed by the Examiner in the office action dated August 13, 2003.

Accordingly, because neither Gaudenzi, Dozier, LoVasco nor Nakane teach or suggest the present invention as amended, applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection of claims 15-19 under 35 U.S.C. § 103 (a) over all of those references.


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CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, applicants respectfully submit that the present application is in condition for allowance. Reconsideration of the application and an early Notice of Allowance are respectfully requested. In the event that the Examiner cannot allow the present application for any reason, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned attorney, Vincent J. Roccia at (215) 564-8946, to discuss resolution of any remaining issues.

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